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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOBE-00 SRPP-00
 DS-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00
 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00
 P-00 CIO-00 SCT-00 SP-00 TRSE-00 T-00 PMB-00
 DSCC-00 DRL-04 G-00 SAS-00 /018W
 -----166189 021131Z /38

R 021130Z FEB 98
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9563
 INFO USCINCSO MIAMI FL
 USIA WASHDC 1403
 DIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 000276

E.D. 12958: DECL: 01/30/98
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL,VE
 SUBJECT: RADICAL CAUSE JOINS IRENE

REF: CARACAS 112

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CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED] REASON: 1.5 (D).

B6

SUMMARY

1. (C) the radical cause party (lcr) intends to ride the irene bandwagon to victory in a 1998 electoral coalition. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] told poloff that independent irene saez, mayor of chacao, will form a powerful alliance based on political forces (perhaps to be called "the people's force") largely outside the traditional parties and even outside caracas. apart from lcr and irene's own party, made up mostly of political neophytes, irene will draw support from several governors [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] end summary.

lcr woos irene

2. (c) [REDACTED] told poloff january 29 that former lcr

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presidential candidate andres velasquez had concluded that another run for the presidency in 1998 was unrealistic. [REDACTED] described velasquez, who got 22 percent of the vote in 1993 (compared with 30 percent for caldera), as "an electoral phenomenon," i.e., a non-major party candidate who emerges suddenly. he said history shows that such phenomena, like past presidential candidates wolfgang larrazabal, jovito villalba, and miguel angel burelli rivas, never do well on their second try.

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 CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, M. GRAFELD, DAS, A/GIS, ACTING
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ADOLPH H EISNER
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 1 FEB 2023
 DATE/CASE ID: 14 JUN 2010 200503654

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Ø PGOV 6
R186RELEASED IN PART
B6, B1, 1.4(D)

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coalition politics

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5. (c) using the working title of "the people's force," the alliance will continue to grow but will not include any of venezuela's major political parties.

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lcr-irene program

6. (c) [] said saez (famous for the vagueness of her platform) will run on a very specific "plan of action" that is still being worked out. he said the major elements will be a frontal attack on poverty, with emphasis on education, health, jobs, and fighting crime. [] told poloff that when saez begins to speak out, "everyone will be surprised, and her rating in the polls will jump from 40 to 60 percent." (see caracas 254 on presidential polling.)

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7. (c) [] believes the major parties rue the day they set the political decentralization process in motion. today all the

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top presidential candidates are products of decentralization, mostly from outside caracas and in opposition to ad and copei. if lcr-irene wins the election, [] said, they will reinforce decentralization, transforming the country by empowering the states, cities, and towns to the detriment of the central government and political party bosses. the idea, he said, is to greatly enhance people's participation in making decisions that affect their future. he said economic reforms now underway, including privatization, will continue.

comment

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